

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W

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P 201630Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 714

UNCLAS BELGRADE 3265

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, YO

SUBJECT: U.S. YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC COUNCIL'S ANNUAL MEETING

1. PLEASE TELEPHONE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JAMES WALKER OF USYEC - TEL. (212) 687-7797:

A. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE HAS MET WITH VICE PRESIDENT PRICA
AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY APOSTOLOVIC OF BELGRADE ECONOMIC
CHAMBER OF LATTER'S REQUEST TO DISCUSS THEIR WISH THAT A GROUP
OF USYEC MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN A ONE-DAY PROGRAM WHICH THE
CHAMBER WOULD ORGANIZE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 10, AFTER THE ANNUAL
JOINT MEETING. PROGRAM WOULD CONSIST OF SHORT PLENARY SESSION
AND COMPANY-TO-COMPANY DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON.
TOURIST ACTIVITIES COULD BE ARRANGED AFTER LUNCHEON. TO AVOID
TRAMPLING SENSITIVITIES OF OTHER CHAMBERS, BELGRADE ORGANIZATION
WOULD CONDUCT PROGRAM IN COOPERATION WITH SERBIAN CHAMBER AND
WITH APPROVAL OF YUGOSLAV (FEDERAL) ECONOMIC CHAMBER.

B. APOSTOLOVIC MENTIONED HAVING RECEIVED LETTER FROM PETER
GREER OF CHASE WHO INDICATED APPROVAL OF THE BELGRADE
CHAMBER'S PROPOSAL. MEMBERS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WOULD BE:

ALLIS CHALMERS

JOHN DEERE

DOW CHEMICAL

EATON

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

UNION CARBIDE

U.S. FURNITURE

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ARMCO-ROSE

U.S. STEEL

SEARS

GENERAL ELECTRIC

CHASE MANHATTAN BANK

FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK NEW YORK

FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK CHICAGO

MANUFACTURERS HANOVER TRUST

C. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BELGRADE ENTERPRISES WOULD NOT VIEW ANY PROGRAM PUT ON BY CHAMBER AS REASON TO STAY AWAY FROM BUDVA MEETING. THE CHAMBER OFFICIALS ASSURED THIS WOULD NOT BE A RISK (EMBASSY COMMENT: FURTHERMORE, 110 YUGOSLAV ENTERPRISES HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JOINT MEETING).

D. EMBASSY CONSIDERS BELGRADE CHAMBER'S PROPOSAL WORTH CONSIDERING PROVIDED MINIMUM OF FIVE USYEC MEMBERS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE. BELGRADE CHAMBER STATES THAT IT WOULD TAILOR THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING BELGRADE ENTERPRISES TO THE SIZE AND INTERESTS OF THE U.S. GROUP. PLEASE TELEX EARLY REACTION TO PERMIT BELGRADE CHAMBER MAKE PLANS.

2. FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION: PLANS FOR THE JOINING MEETING APPEAR TO BE PROCEEDING RATHER WELL. THOUGH THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO ASSIST HEAVILY, YUGOSLAVS ARE WELL AHEAD OF LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE ON ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS AND AS A NEW FEATURE THEY HAVE PROMISED TO GATHER A GROUP OF YUGOSLAV EXPERTS WHO WOULD INTERPRET NEW LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO U.S. SIDE IN PLENARY AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT EUR/EE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER FOR YUGOSLAVIA ATTEND THE JOINT MEETING. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS CONDITIONS HERE ARE RAPIDLY EVOLVING AND THE YUGOSLAVS ARE PUTTING INTO PLACE A SPATE OF NEW SYSTEMS LAWS AND REGULATIONS SOME OF WHICH ARE CAUSING UNCERTAINTY TO U.S. FIRMS. WITH SENIOR AND EXPERT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS 110 ENTERPRISES EXPECTED AT MEETING WE KNOW OF NO OTHER

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EVENT IN YUGOSLAVIA DURING COURSE OF YEAR WHICH WILL PROVIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER INFORMATION. AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL NO DOUBT BE CALLED UPON TO HELP INTERPRET THE CHANGES, WE THINK PRESENCE OF DEPARTMENTAL OFFICER WOULD BE VERY BENEFICIAL.

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